



STORAGE

Expanding water storage capacity – in both surface water reservoirs and underground aquifers – is critical to the successful implementation of all aspects of the CALFED Program. The Storage Program has successfully met all first year goals including the following actions:

- Awarded \$2.15 million to five local agencies for locally controlled conjunctive use projects.
- Signed an agreement with local partners to develop a joint process to plan and evaluate the Sites Reservoir surface storage project.
- Initiated an evaluation of alternatives for surface and groundwater storage on the Upper San Joaquin River.
- Completed a report on storage opportunities in the Delta to support a federal authorization to move forward on the Delta Wetlands project.
- Completed six Memorandums of Understanding with local agencies to conduct sub-basin surface and groundwater storage planning studies.
- Developed a grant program to allocate funds for conjunctive use and groundwater management projects in 2001.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: The Storage Program will continue to seek the additional water storage needed for a growing population and to provide the much needed flexibility to improve water quality and restore ecosystem health to the Bay-Delta system. Additional surface and groundwater storage will provide water for the environment, provide flows to maintain water quality, and provide flood protection, as well as improve water supply reliability.

CALFED is focusing on off-stream storage sites for new storage and considering expansion of existing on-stream storage sites. No new on-stream sites will be pursued. New storage sites will be implemented concurrently with water conservation and recycling, transfers, and groundwater conjunctive use as components of a comprehensive strategy for improving water supply reliability. CALFED agencies will pursue partnerships with local entities and potential beneficiaries for planning and funding storage projects. Feasibility studies and environmental review will be conducted for those sites selected in the ROD that will improve water quality, water supply reliability, and the ecosystem health.

CALFED agencies will support locally controlled and managed groundwater conjunctive use projects with financial and technical assistance. The Program will partner with local agencies and organizations to improve sub-basin wide surface and groundwater management, as well as develop conjunctive use programs.